

Help Your Child Gain the 6 Pre-Reading Skills!

Print Motivation: Thinking that books and reading are fun	Early Talkers (Ages 0-2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin reading books early—even newborns benefit from being read to. (Read to your children in your native language.) • Let your child see you reading. • Visit your library often. • Stop for a while if your child loses interest or gets upset. Reading should always be enjoyable. 	Talkers (Ages 2-3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin reading books early and make it a special time, just for you and your little one. • Let your child see you reading. • Visit your library often. • Stop for a while if your child loses interest or gets upset. Reading should always be enjoyable. 	Pre-Readers (Ages 4-5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit your library often. Let your children pick out their own books. • Make book time a special time, just for you and your little one. • Let your child see you reading. • Stop for a while if your child loses interest or gets upset. Reading should always be enjoyable.
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Children who enjoy books will want to learn how to read.

Vocabulary: Knowing the names of things	Early Talkers (Ages 0-2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk to your baby. • Answer when your baby talks to you. Ask questions—even if he can't answer yet. • Speak clearly and use short sentences. Repeat yourself if your child shows interest. 	Talkers (Ages 2-3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with your child about what is going on around you. Speak in the language that is most comfortable for you. • Read together every day—books use words and pictures that are new to your child. • When your child talks to you, encourage him to add more detail to what he says. 	Pre-Readers (Ages 4-5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk with your child about what is going on around you. Talk about how things work, feelings, and ideas. • Read together every day. When you talk about the story, your child learns even more words. • Learn together by reading informational books on subjects your child enjoys.
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Children with bigger vocabularies become better readers.

Print Awareness: Recognizing print and	Early Talkers (Ages 0-2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let your child hold and 	Talkers (Ages 2-3): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read aloud as often as 	Pre-Readers (Ages 4-5): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold the book upside down
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understanding how books work	<p>play with board, cloth, and bath books. Babies learn through touch.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point to words as you read them aloud. • Read aloud as often as possible—it doesn't matter what it is, it's the reading that is the important part. 	<p>possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point to the words as you read them aloud, especially words that are repeated. • Let your child turn the pages. • Let your child hold the book and tell the story. • Hold the book upside down. See if your child turns the book around. 	<p>and backwards. See if your child can turn the right way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point to the words as you read them aloud, especially words that are repeated. • Let your child hold the book and tell the story. • Read aloud as often as possible.
Children who are comfortable with print become better readers.			
Narrative Skills: Being able to tell stories and describe things	<p>Early Talkers (Ages 0-2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your child stories. Describe your activities throughout the day. • Encourage your toddler to talk about things. Listen patiently and ask questions. • Read favorite books again and again. 	<p>Talkers (Ages 2-3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tell your child stories. They help children understand sequences. • Ask your child to tell you about something that happened today. Listen patiently and ask questions. • Read a favorite story, then let your child "read" it to you. 	<p>Pre-Readers (Ages 4-5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen carefully when your child talks. • Ask your child to tell you about something that happened. Let her draw a picture and tell you about it. • Read together. Stories help children understand sequences. • Ask open-ended questions like, "What do you think is happening in this picture?"
Being able to tell and retell stories helps children to understand what they read.			
Letter Knowledge: Understanding that each letter has its own name and sounds	<p>Early Talkers (Ages 0-2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters are made up of shapes. Help your baby learn about different shapes as you play. (Say, "The ball is round.") 	<p>Talkers (Ages 2-3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read alphabet books. • Point out letters anywhere you see them. • Talk with your child about what is the same 	<p>Pre-Readers (Ages 4-5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Point out and name letters in alphabet books. • Show your child that the same letter can look different. Talk with your child about what is

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read alphabet books. • Point out letters anywhere you see them. • Talk with your toddler about what is the same and what is different. 	<p>and what is different. Help your child see the different shapes in letters and numbers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write your child's name often, especially the first letter. • Make letters from play dough and play with magnetic or foam letters. 	<p>the same and what is different.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice writing your child's name. • Write words that interest your child, like "truck" or "princess" using magnetic letters and a crayon or pencil and paper.
Knowing the names and sounds of letters helps children figure out how to sound out words.			
Phonological Awareness: Being able to recognize and play with the smaller sounds that make up words	<p>Early Talkers (Ages 0-2):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Say nursery rhymes often, emphasizing the rhyming words. • Sing songs, and clap along with music. In songs, each syllable often gets its own note. • Add actions to songs and poems. • Make up silly nonsense rhymes. • Read rhyming books. 	<p>Talkers (Ages 2-3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read rhyming books. • Say nursery rhymes often, emphasizing the rhyming words. • Sing songs, and clap along with music. In songs, each syllable often gets its own note. • Add actions to songs and poems. • Play word games like, "What starts with the same sound as ball?" 	<p>Pre-Readers (Ages 4-5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read rhyming books. Encourage children to guess the last word in a rhyme. • Ask whether two words rhyme. • Play word games by taking apart words: "What would we have if we took the <i>hot</i> out of <i>hotdog</i>?" or "What do we have if we take the 'sss' away from <i>sat</i>?" • Sing songs, and clap along with music. In songs, each syllable often gets its own note.
Being able to hear the sounds that make up words helps children when they are learning to read.			